



HR0816

LRB099 14273 HEP 38652 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Pope Francis, in his address to Congress, called  
3 upon the American people to come together in aiding those  
4 "trapped in a cycle of poverty"; in his address, Pope Francis  
5 asserted that "[t]he Golden Rule . . . reminds us of our  
6 responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage  
7 of its development"; and

8           WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of this State to ensure  
9 that every child has access to the high quality education he or  
10 she deserves, whether in the childcare context, early childhood  
11 education classrooms, elementary school, middle school, high  
12 school, or college; and

13           WHEREAS, House Resolution 56 of the 96th General Assembly  
14 urged the State Board of Education to establish a comprehensive  
15 plan to close the student achievement gap by the 2010-2011  
16 school year; and

17           WHEREAS, Time and time again, schools in low-income  
18 communities are strapped for resources and are labeled  
19 underperforming; and

20           WHEREAS, The ongoing inequality of education resources is a  
21 potential human rights violation that needs to be investigated

1 immediately; and

2 WHEREAS, Low-income neighborhoods have a clear  
3 disadvantage in our State's education system and this body  
4 seeks to be responsive to the needs of these communities; and

5 WHEREAS, A closer look at systemic income-related  
6 discrimination in our schools is needed to develop a clear  
7 understanding of the challenges we face and what we can do to  
8 overcome them; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 the Task Force on Equality in Education be created to conduct  
12 an investigation on education services provided to low-income  
13 families; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of the  
15 following members: 3 task force members appointed by the  
16 Speaker of the House; 3 task force members appointed by the  
17 Minority Leader of the House; one task force member from the  
18 Department of Human Rights, appointed by the Governor; one task  
19 force member from the State Board of Education, appointed by  
20 the Governor; and one task force member who is a member of the  
21 Illinois Federation of Teachers, appointed by the governing  
22 board of that entity; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the task force be appointed and hold its  
2 first meeting by March 1, 2016; and be it further

3           RESOLVED, That the task force shall take voluntary  
4 assistance and testimony from individuals and professional  
5 organizations and institutions; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall serve  
7 without compensation; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Rights shall provide  
9 staffing and administrative support services to the task force  
10 upon request; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the task force shall submit its final report  
12 to the General Assembly and the Governor no later than December  
13 31, 2016.